

Paroled

By G. M. SASSAMAN
(McClure Syndicate—WFO Service.)

NO. 6780 leaned against his hay rake to mop the sweat from his wrinkled face. To the left, four fields away, the stone towers of the farm prison glinted in the rays of a setting sun. A hundred yards to the right a careless old guard, back turned to the low wooden fence, his rifle slung against a post beside him.

They had come out to the outlying field to finish raking up, No. 6780 and the guard. That is, old Bill Morag to wield the rake and Tim O'Dowd the rifle.

It had always been that way with Bill Morag—always someone standing guard.

Years of harsh discipline had earned Morag—years in which he had struggled valiantly against the shackles society imposed upon his incorrigibles. Age creeping stealthily upon him, had taught him the wisdom of plain obedience.

On the prison farm things hadn't been so bad, and the guard treated prisoners like human beings. He had only two more years to go, Morag—unless he received a parole. Parole? His past infractions had forever doomed the hope of leniency. He'd have to pay up in full.

At any rate, the prison farm was the best thing yet.

No. 6780 put his handkerchief back in his pocket and looked off across the fields.

The convict couldn't help thinking how easy it would be to drop his rake and run. A glance toward O'Dowd showed the old guard still leaning over the fence—like a sea-sick steamship passenger—bending over the lee rail.

He might get clear across the adjoining field before the gray-haired Irishman turned around. He'd be almost out of range then, and maybe he'd reach the highway.

Morag wasn't really considering these things seriously. He was only toying with thoughts, as a bank clerk surrounded with stacks of money might toy with the thought of grabbing them up and making for the street. The convict may have powered the guard and escaped.

Morag tried to resume his raking, but the clean smell of the hay seemed a challenge, inarticulate yet disturbing.

The rake handle dropped unheeded from his hands. With fingers convulsing at his sides, Morag moved slowly toward the unconscious guard, slowly, as if the awkwardness of his intent were like a ball and chain dragging against the forward thrust of his feet.

There was no furtiveness in the convict's advance. The dry brown grass stubbles swished peevishly against his heavy shoes as the swing of his legs bent them forward and down.

O'Dowd did not turn around at his approach. Without a glance at the aged guard, Morag made straight for the post against which the heavy rifle leaned. He picked up the weapon, hefted it in his hands a moment, then let the stock drop to the ground. For another moment he stood waiting upon his feet, indecision mirrored in every line of his drooping figure, an agony of yearning wishfulness in his eyes.

His next act seemed charged with haste, as if his muscles had responded to an impulse of the will. For, with a suddenness that seemed to spring from no volition of the mind, he thrust the rifle's muzzle to his own head . . . and his thumb pushed back the trigger.

Warden Bainsy leaned back in his chair and looked at the convict, who stood uneasily at the edge of the desk.

"And you want to take a cartridge out of his belt?" he prompted. "You thought it was best protection—but it was his heart, and he'd been dead for hours."

The other tried to interrupt, but the warden barked on. "Don't tell me!" he roared. "I know about his heart just as well as I know he always carried his gun empty. And then when you saw he was dead you knew it was useless to fire a signal."

He rose suddenly and placed an arm coaxingly around the convict's shoulders. "Old timer," he said, and there was a curious pleading in the warden's voice. "This is more than just a job to me. It's a purpose—this place where I'm trying to build whole men out of wrecked age."

His eyes strayed through the window to the lawn outside where two men, one in uniform and the other in prisoner's garb, were grinning at each other over a bed of larkspur. "You could have smashed in one stroke all it took me years to build up, if you'd lammed out on—guilt. I can get you a parole now, but I need you here. I wish you'd stick around."

Some of the frustration and defeat went out of old Bill Morag, and his sagging shoulders, even under the burden of the warden's arm, seemed to the perceptibly.

"I'll stick around," he said.

Hixburg News Events

Hixburg, July 9. - Farmers are busy trying to get wheat cut and threshed before it rains again.

Mrs. F. W. Gilliam was in town Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Griffin and Herbert Gilliam, of North Carolina visited relatives here July 4th. Mr. Gilliam stayed over Sunday with his sister.

Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Harwood and son, Keith were supper guests Wednesday night of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Hix.

Mrs. P. H. McPhillips and Mrs. Ed McPhillips called on Mrs. R. W. Covington on Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Wheeler visited Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Marshall Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. E. P. Sears, Miss Lavette Sears and Herbert Gilliam visited Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Gilliam of Lynchburg Friday night.

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Liberty Chapel

Liberty Chapel, July 9. - Mrs. E. R. Hamriley, of Gladstone spent Saturday in the home of Mrs. Mollie Garrette.

Mrs. J. R. Booker and granddaughter, Elizabeth Christian, are visiting friends in South Carolina.

Mrs. Susie B. Christian is attending summer classes at Farmville S.T.C. Also her daughter Peggy.

Mrs. R. S. Coleman of Newport News is spending some time with her daughter, Mrs. Malcolm Rooker.

Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Garrette and Mrs. Christine Garrette called on Mr. and Mrs. Jack Marshall Saturday night.

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FARM TOPICS

COW ON PASTURE REQUIRES GRAIN

Constant Ration Aids the Production of Milk.

By DR. GEO. E. TAYLOR

Discontinuance of grain feeding of cows on pasture is somewhat akin to the action of the man who killed the goose that laid the golden egg.

Yet many a dairy farmer stops grain feeding as soon as his cows increase their milk flow under the stimulus of luxuriant pasture rich in protein, minerals and vitamins.

To make a radical change in the ration is to make a costly mistake.

Dairy cattle on good pasture will maintain increased production without grain for possibly three to four weeks, but they will lose weight in the process.

This loss of body weight will be followed by a reduction in milk production. Even when turned on pasture as accustomed to the change in their ration the level of production during June, under continued feeding of grain and a limited amount of hay until the cows are turned on pasture, will be maintained.

Good pasture alone will provide sufficient nutrients for body maintenance and the production of 10 to 20 or more pounds of milk, depending upon the per cent of fat in the milk.

New Jersey experiment station trials demonstrated that the feeding of one pound of grain to 84 pounds of milk maintained the level of production during June. Under average feeding conditions, however, a more liberal allowance of grain is usually recommended for the entire pasture season.

One pound of grain to every five or seven pounds of milk produced should be sufficient. The higher the level of production the more liberal allowance of grain in proportion to the amount of milk produced.

Since the protein content of green pasture is higher than the protein content of roughage fed during winter, the protein content of the summer grain mixture can be reduced.

A concentrate grain mixture containing 12 per cent crude protein will supply ample protein for cows on excellent pasture, usually high producers excepted. A mixture of such home grown grains as corn, barley and oats contains about 12 per cent crude protein.

During summer, cows should have free access to a mineral mixture of equal parts salt and steamed bone meal.

Novel Device Checks Field Contour Lines

Technical assistance in laying out contour lines on a farm has long been an expressed need of conservation-minded farmers. L. H. Schoenberger, Iowa agricultural engineer, has attempted to meet this need by a device which enables farmers to lay out contour lines for themselves, without surveying equipment.

His invention is called a grade meter. It has not yet been placed on the market, but it demonstrated its merit in a wide variety of tests. Schoenberger has received a public service patent on the grade meter but plans to subject the device to further tests before offering it to farmers throughout the country.

Contour farming is a basic part of the farm planning program. The grade meter consists of a pendulum connected to an indicator arm through a train of gears. This is mounted rigidly on the tractor in front of the operator. As the pendulum swings it causes the indicator arm to move over a scale which shows deviations from zero. The operator of the tractor endeavors to keep the meter reading zero at all times.

Agricultural News

About \$20,000,000 is lost each year from eggs that are incubated but fail to hatch.

If you want to insure pastures for all summer, use rubber tubes for pasture boundaries and divide large fields into small lots.

Most cows will drink from four to five gallons of water for each pound of milk they produce. They should have access to all the fresh, clean water they can drink.

The newest treatment for wraps, developed by scientists, is made of tightly stretched rubber bands. It will remove parasites in a short time, without cost.

A 48-inch worm hit a new high last year when more than 1,000,000 worms were found in 79,500 chickens in the United States and territories.

Good cows change almost two-thirds of their feed into milk and butterfat.

Rocks

Rocks, July 10. - The Daily Vacation Bible School at Rocks Baptist church closed Friday night.

Mrs. Buck Carter and daughter Rachel of Marfanee, W. Va., who have been visiting the former's brother, L. K. Almond have returned to their home.

Mrs. C. S. Ransom and son, William Carroll and Miss Dora Jean Ransom were visiting in Amherst last Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Dickerson and daughter, of Amherst spent last Sunday with their aunt Mrs. W. F. Ransom of Pamplin.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Jones and son, Richard Allen who have been spending some time with her mother, Mrs. Sherman Garlinghouse returned to her home in Chester, Pa. Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry St. John and son spent last Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Percy Carter.

Mrs. James (Haskell) and son Jimmy, of High Point, N. C. are visiting the former's mother, Mrs. Maude Ransom.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ransom and son, John Henry Ransom spent the week-end in Norfolk.

Mrs. Pearl Daniel of Cresco spent a few days last week with her sister, Mrs. Sherman Garlinghouse.

Mrs. Nora Meadows of Roanoke, who spent several days in the home of J. H. Ransom last week, returned to her home Sunday.

Toby Inge spent a few days in Norfolk last week with his sister, Mrs. J. P. Ransom Jr.

The G. A. A.'s met Sunday with Miss Doris Jean Rook. Her dinner guests were: Misses Rita Ransom, Annie Mae Martin, Ethel Garrette, Virginia Dore Almond and the G. A. leader, Mrs. Blass Ransom.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Garret and daughter, Ethel spent Monday in Richmond.

Mrs. Oscar Gallaher and two children of a near Lynchburg spending this week with the parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. win.

Mrs. W. R. Moore and son, Betty June of Norfolk are visiting in Amherst last Sunday.

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